

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of removing refractive defects formed in the matrix of a clear cyclic olefin component of a medical device during steam sterilization, wherein the clear polycyclicolefin component has been heated to a temperature of between 120°C to  
5 130°C in the presence of steam. The method includes maintaining the polycyclicolefin component at a second temperature in a relatively drier atmosphere without reducing the temperature of the polycyclicolefin component to ambient temperature. Where the cyclic olefin component is a prefilled medical storage or delivery device, the second temperature is between 80°C and less than 100°C. The  
10 method of this invention is particularly suitable to remove refractive defects formed in the matrix of a polycyclicolefin barrel of a prefilled syringe or cartridge following terminal sterilization.